New targets like tight gas sands, deep basin gas on proved basins, Gondwana & West Bengal Basins.

(b) and (c) Strategic Planning Group on Restructuring of Oil Industry ('R' Group) was set up in January, 1995 inter alia, to make policy recommendations and suggest initiatives required for restructuring of the Oil Industry to meet the basic strategic objectives of developing a financially sound and Internationally competitive hydrocarbon sector. The 'R' Group has submitted its report. However, no decision has been taken on its recommendations.

(d) Of the identified basins/areas, as mentioned in reply to Part (a), oil production is being obtained only from the Category-I basins. The basin-wise oil production from each of these basins during the year 1995-96 was as under :-

Basin	Oil Production (MMT)
Cambay	6.386
Upper Assam & Assam-Arakan Fold Belt	5.074
Krishna-Godavari & Cauvery	0.575
Bombay Offshore	23.127
	35.162

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) The details are given in reply to Part (a) above.

(h) The quantity of oil expected from new exploration thrust areas can only be estimated after the results of exploration and establishment of reserves.

[Translation]

National Power Grid

*359. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any schemes to inter link all the power grids with one another in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(d) the sources through which the funds are proposed to be mobalised; and

(e) the time by which such schemes are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have formulated plans to inter connect various regional electricity grids of the country. Some of these links are already under operation, others are under construction and under consideration. A list of the centrally owned inter-regional links is given below :

I. Existing (Under Operation)

(i) Between Western & Northern Region – 500 MW Vindhyachal HVDC Back to Back Station.

(ii) Between North-Eastern & Eastern Region 200 KV Birpara-Bongaigaon.

(iii) Reamagundam – Chandrapur – 400 KV line between Sourthern Region & Western Region.

II. Under Construction.

(i) Between Western & Southern Region 1000 MW HVDC back-to back at Chandrapur.

(ii) Between Eastern & Southern Regions - 500 MW HVDC back-to-back at Gazuwaka.

(iii) Between North Eastern & Eastern Region 400 KV between Bongaigaon and Malda.

III. Under Consideration.

(i) Between Eastern & Northern Region - 500 MW at Sasaram between Biharashariff to Rihand.

IV. Studies carried out by POWERGRID suggests requirement of the following additional major transmission links;

(i) 400 KV AC Raipur (WR) to Rourkela (ER)

(ii) 3000 MW HVDC Bipole link between Talcher in ER to Bangalore in SR as a part of Talcher-II transmission system.

(iii) 3000 MW HVDC Bipole link between Ib Valley in ER and Jaipur in NR and 400 KV AC system from Ib Valley (ER) to Raipur (WR). These transmission links are part of the transmission system associated with CEPA.

(c) and (d) Estimated cost of the above projects and other details are given in the attached Statement.

(e) Expected commissioning dates of the aforementioned project (s) are as follows :

		Commissioning Dates
i.	Chandrapur B/B HVDC	11/97
ii.	Gazuwaka B/B HVDC	2/99
iii.	Sasaram B/B HVDC	3/2000
iv.	400 KV Bongaigaon – Malda	3/98
v.	Talcher-Bangalore HVDC	2001-02
vi.	(a) Ib Valley – Jaipur HVDC	2001-02
	(b) Ib Valley – Raipur AC system	2000-01
vii.	400 KV Raipur – Rourkela	2001

Statement

	Projects	Approved/Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Funding Agency
i.	Chandrapur B/B HVDC	1046 crores	West Merchant Bank Indosuez Credit National Overseas Dev. Agency (tied up).
ii.	Gazuwaka B/B HVDC	574 Crs.	Asian Development Bank/West Merchant Bank (tied up).
iii.	Sasaram-Biharsharif HVDC	567 Crs.	DDA (Overseas Development (Agency)/World Bank (Under processing).
iv.	400 KV Bongaigaon-Malda	212 Crs.	OECF (Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund) (Tied up).
v.	Talcher-Bangalore HVDC	2500 Crs.	WB (World Bank) (under consideration).
vi.	Ib Valley, Jaipur HVDC Ib Valley, Raipur, HVDC	6140 Crs.	Not finalised.
vii.	400 KV AC Raipur-Rourkela	336 Crs.	World Bank (under processing).

Note : The External financing is about 55% to 60% of the cost of the projects, 20% funding is made from POWERGRIDS Internal Resources and remaining is through Bond/Domestic Commercial Borrowing.

[English]

National Bio-Gas Project

*360. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :
SHRI RAJINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether various States have not been able to achieve even 50 percent of the annual target fixed for implementation of programmes under National Bio-gas Project;

(b) if so, the States, which have not been able to achieve the annual target;

(c) whether Government have made any arrangements to provide improved chulhas, instal Bio-gas to the People who wish to have Bio-gas Plant and improved chulhas;

(d) wether Government have made any positive efforts to help such States to achieve the target of the National Bio-gas Project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the period April 1996 to January 1997, all States and Union Territories except Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Chandigarh and Pondicherry have achieved 52 to 164 per cent of their respective annual targets fixed under the Central Sector Scheme – National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD). The overall annual target of setting up of 1.65 lakh family type biogas Plants fixed for 1996-97 under NPBD is expected to be achieved by the end of March 1997.

(c) Yes, Sir. In addition to NPBD, a separate Central Sector Scheme - National Programme on Improved Chulhas (NPIC) is being implemented in all States and Union Territories to promote various improved designs of efficient and smokeless chulhas.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is providing technical and training support including training courses for users; financial incentives, such as, central subsidy, turn-key job fee to non-governmental organisations and trained entrepreneurs, additional central subsidy for toilet linked biogas plants, etc.; and support for publicity and awareness raising for implementation of NPBD in all States and Union Territories. Regional and state level reviews have been organised during August 1996 to February 1997, especially for the States which were lagging behind in achieving the targets, to draw action plans for improving the pace of implementation of the programme.

Supply of Computers

3778. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "PCL faces flak from customers" appearing in the "Times of India" dated February 13, 1997;